

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 41 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 23, 25, and the even-numbered claims between 2 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 7, 11 and 19 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter from canceled claims 1 and 3, and claims 9, 13, and 21 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter from canceled claim 5. The remaining claims have been amended to change "An" to "The". No new matter has been added by these amendments. Further, since these amendments are merely formal in nature and will place the application in condition for allowance, as explained below, entry after final is deemed appropriate and respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication in the present Office Action that claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, and 41 are only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims. By this amendment, claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 19 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter from the base claims, and the remaining claims 15, 17, 27, 29, 35, 37, 39 and 41 depend on these claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable, and the summary of the outstanding rejections which follows is only being provided to complete the record.

Specifically, in the present Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-25405 ("JP '405") and has rejected claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '405 in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,214,879 of Baruch ("Baruch"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 59-8231 ("JP '231") in view of EP 2000-141079 ("EP '079"), and has rejected claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '231 in view of EP '079 and further in view of Baruch. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as follows.


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By the present amendment, all of the rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 23, and 25 have been canceled, rendering all of the § 103(a) rejections moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the preceding Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claim are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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